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Lincoln had espoused the Crittenden Compromise, Seward would have been quite ready to do so, and that the project would have passed. He believes that a majority of the people of the United States were in favor of the plan. He rejects the theory which explains the secession of the South as brought about by a conspiracy of leaders in violation of the wish of the majority in the Southern states. It is his belief that while the majority may have hesitated longer in the hope of a compromise, the action finally taken met with their approval.

In dealing with the military operations of the period, the author is judicious ; but he cannot be said to give promise of unusual power, either critical or descriptive, in this part of his task.

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN.

FREDERICK J. TURNER.

The Industrial Evolution of the United States. By CARROLL D. WRIGHT, LL.D., United States Commissioner of Labor. Meadville, The Chautauqua-Century Press, 1895. — 352 pp.

This little book is admirably adapted for its purpose as part of the required reading of the Chautauqua Literary and Scientific Circle. Mr. Wright's long experience as head of the Massachusetts bureau of statistics of labor, and commissioner of the federal department of labor, has familiarized him with almost every phase of industrial life and given him a command of information vast in extent and accurate in detail, such as few men possess.

We can trace in many chapters the results and conclusions of former investigations, such as that on wages, conducted by the Massachusetts bureau of statistics of labor in 1884-86 ; those on manufactures, reported in the industrial censuses of Massachusetts ; that on the factory system, in the tenth census of the United States ; those of the federal department of labor on industrial depressions (1886), on strikes and lockouts (1887), on cost of production (1890-91), and on prices (1892) ; and that of the commission appointed to investigate the Chicago strike (1894). The book is, therefore, not a new and original economic history of the United States, but rather the summarized expression of the impressions of a man who for twenty-five years has busied himself with the facts of economic history and economic life. In this lies both the strength and the weakness of the work — its strength, in the fullness of knowledge with which the author speaks ; its weakness, in the overshadowing (to say the least) of the great features of the evolution by

the mass of details. It is only fair to say, however, that in his preface Mr. Wright has disclaimed the more ambitious task of discussing all the results of such an evolution, and has voluntarily confined himself to a "plain, simple statement of the leading facts attending the planting and development of the mechanical industries of our country."

In the first two Parts, tracing the evolution of industry in the United States, the author is true to his program. He gives a detailed history of the technical development of certain leading industries, such as ship-building, and the manufactures of cotton, wool and iron, and adds statistical comparisons showing the increase in products, in number of persons employed and in wages paid. Either of these methods is apt to be rather dry and tedious, but the author has enlivened the narrative with many associated facts, so that it carries the reader with considerable ease through a great quantity of statistical figures and dates.

Part III, "The Labor Movement," introduces us to some of the more important results of the development of mechanical industry, *viz.*, labor organization, labor legislation and labor controversies, ending with the Chicago strike of 1894. The treatment of these subjects, while sympathetic towards the workingman, is on the whole fair and candid. It might be urged, perhaps, that while defending so warmly the right to strike, the author might have said something more of the evils of violence, boycotting and sympathetic strikes, and of the right to freedom of employment on the part of the non-union men.

Part IV, "The Influence of Machinery on Labor," is philosophical. Mr. Wright inclines to the opinion that machinery creates a demand for more labor than it displaces. The figures of increased *per capita* consumption cited on page 337 do not logically prove this point, for it has already been shown that machinery may increase the product while diminishing the number of laborers. The statistics of the increased number of persons employed and the rise of entirely new industries (*e.g.*, the manufacture of electrical supplies) are, however, pertinent and extremely interesting. On the other hand, the fact that the number of persons engaged in gainful occupations increased 176 per cent from 1860 to 1890, while the population increased only 99 per cent, seems to me to be of doubtful significance as regards its effect on the condition of the laboring class. May it not mean an increased employment of women and children, or an increased supply of labor due to immigration? So too, the bald

statement (p. 341) that the wage-earner has not received his just and equitable share of the economic benefits derived from the introduction of machinery, seems to need some support, especially in view of the facts about increase of wages and decreased prices cited before. But here we are trenching on that broader field of generalization in regard to the meaning of the economic evolution which Mr. Wright refused to enter.

The illustrations (wood-cuts) are often interesting. Their introduction as mere "pictures" without reference to the text is, however, insulting to the intelligence of the Chautauqua readers. For instance, the chapter on "The Ethical Influence of Machinery" is adorned with a cut of a twenty-two-story "sky-scraper" in Chicago!

RICHMOND MAYO-SMITH.

The Finances of the United States from 1775 to 1789, with Especial Reference to the Budget. By C. J. BULLOCK. Bulletin of the University of Wisconsin. Madison, Published by the University, 1895. — viii, 273 pp.

It is difficult to express a judgment on this book without appearing unnecessarily harsh. It may be admitted at the outset that the author has read widely and diligently: there is hardly a printed source of information which he has not consulted and drawn upon. When this has been said, praise must end and criticism begin; for in form and matter the essay lacks what alone can make a true history of the subject. The collection of a large number of financial facts, figures and opinions is of little value without a proper arrangement of such materials and a logical development of their relations. Mr. Bolles, who has told us all that Mr. Bullock tells, possessed a wider knowledge of applied economics, but nevertheless so used his materials as to produce an unsatisfactory work. It is possible, for example, to enumerate in one chapter all the various resorts by the Continental Congress to paper money; but such a chapter would be of little value unless it explained the cause and effect of each issue. The first bills of credit were a measure of necessity, but had no necessary and immediate connection with the second issue of similar bills. It was because the Congress failed in its efforts to raise revenue from lotteries, taxes, requisitions in money and in specific articles, sales of public territory and other expedients, that it returned again and again to paper money. Neither Mr. Bolles nor Mr. Bullock has appreciated the connection and relation of these various expedients.